

Top Secret

Report



Watch Committee

Watch Report

DRAFT—Submitted for USIB Approval

CIA

Top Secret

Meeting No. 1262

30 October 74

Copy No. 181

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/03/19 : CIA-RDP93T01468R000100070029-1

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WATCH COMMITTEE DRAFT WATCH REPORT
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

30 October 1974

No. 1262

The Committee concludes that there will be
no military attack on the United States or
its overseas forces in the near future.

Subjects of immediate concern are discussed
below.

I. Middle East

1. The agreement at the Arab Summit Conference to
endorse the ^{Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole} establishment of an independent Palestinian
^{representing Palestinians} authority on the West Bank under the leadership of the
~~Palestine Liberation Organization~~ has raised additional
obstacles to progress in Middle East negotiations and
has increased tensions in the area. If the current
diplomatic impasse is not resolved ~~within the next few~~
~~weeks~~, the risk of renewed warfare will increase sharply.
Arab and Israeli forces are maintaining a state of readiness
which would permit the ^{rapid} initiation of major offensive
action. We continue to believe that the most dangerous
threat to the cease-fire is on the Golan Heights, where a
hasty decision by either side could result in hostilities
with no further warning.

2. Fighting continues in the Kurdistan region of Iraq,
with government forces holding the initiative for the

moment.

II. USSR-Eastern Europe

3. We see no indications of hostile intent in the military activity of the USSR or other Warsaw Pact nations.

III. Southeast Asia

4. The Communists in South Vietnam apparently are being briefed on a new directive to achieve the overthrow of the Thieu government by a continuation of the mix of political and military action ~~[at a level similar to that of]~~ ^{through} 1974. The directive also calls ^{however} for a "general offensive" in 1975 should the Communists be unable to force significant gains. ~~[by the end of the year]~~ The North Vietnamese do have the capability to launch a 1972-scale offensive with little or no warning. We believe, however, that the real purpose of this new document is to exhort the Communists to make greater efforts during an anticipated increase in fighting in the southern portion of the country.